

MEMO

DATE: July 6, 2006

TO: Transportation and Communications Committee

FROM: Bob Huddy, Transportation Program Manager, 213-236-1972, huddy@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Completion for Regionally Significant Transportation Investment Study for the Perris Valley Commuter Rail Project

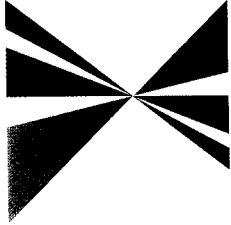
SUMMARY: The Regionally Significant Transportation Investment Study (RSTIS) Peer Review Group heard final presentations May 18, 2006 for the Perris Valley Commuter Rail Project. RSTIS Peer Review Group Members agreed that the study presented was complete and met the regional (2004 RTP) and federal requirements as outlined in SAFETEALU, and could thus be provided a **Letter of Completion**.

The Letter of Completion (attached) documents the Peer Review Group's agreement regarding the successful completion of the RSTIS process. This item confirms that SCAG will provide, under signature of the Director of Planning and Policy Department, a Letter of Completion with the above note according to adopted SCAG guidelines for the Perris Valley Commuter Rail Project RSTIS.

BACKGROUND: Once the provision of the Letter of Completion has been agreed upon, the RSTIS (formerly MIS) Process is complete and draft/final environmental analysis can be completed, if required for selected alternatives. If the locally preferred long-term strategy is different from the currently **adopted 2004 Regional Transportation Plan** it can be presented to the Regional Council for consideration as an amendment to the adopted Plan.

Attachment -- Letter of Completion: Perris Valley Commuter Rail Project RSTIS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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July 6, 2006

Mr. Eric Haley, Chief Executive Officer
Riverside County Trans. Commission
4080 Lemon Street
3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-2208

Attention: Cathy Bechtel

Subject: Perris Valley Line Commuter Rail Study RSTIS

Dear Mr. Haley:

On November 29, 1993, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued final guidance on new regulations stemming from ISTEA passage. The Major Investment Study (MIS) is one of these ISTEA requirements.

Subsequently, TEA-21 removed the requirement for a "stand-alone" MIS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued proposed new MIS regulations and guidance, expected to be finalized in 2001, and FHWA has advised observing existing MIS guidance until DOT guidelines are finalized.

SCAG's adopted 2004 RTP requires a transportation alternatives analysis study for all regionally significant transportation investments (RSTIS) that might utilize federal funds. Projects in this category are usually capacity adding transit and/or highway improvements.

Primary RSTIS components are (1) alternatives analysis, (2) public involvement, and (3) consultation among the MPO, county transportation commissions, transit operators, Caltrans, FHWA, FTA, state resource agencies and other investment stakeholders.

The range of alternatives considered in the North Perris Valley Line Commuter Rail Study (RSTIS) is sufficient to meet RSTIS Guidelines as adopted by SCAG's Transportation and Communications Committee. RCTC conducted an exemplary

public and agency outreach process that provided adequate opportunities for public involvement. Moreover, numerous meetings including the RSTIS Peer Review Group facilitated public agency involvement and consultation during the study process.

On May 18, 2006 the *RSTIS Peer Review Group* met and determined that the **Perris Valley Line Commuter Rail Study (RSTIS)** meets SCAG and FTA/FHWA requirements, and that the project is ready to advance from planning to the environmental impact and project development phase as necessary.

This correspondence documents the RSTIS Peer Review Group findings that the Perris Valley Line Commuter Rail Study (RSTIS) meets Metropolitan Planning Rules and is therefore granted this ***Letter of Completion***. If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 236-1889 or Bob Huddy at (213) 236-1972.

Sincerely,

Hasan Ikhrata
Director of Planning and Policy

CC: Ray Tellis, FTA/FHWA Los Angeles Metro Office
Gary Green, Caltrans District 8
Bob Huddy/RSTIS File, SCAG